

THE MESSIAH'S FOLLOWERS

THE MESSIAH'S MISSION [MATTHEW, PART 4] · MATTHEW 9:9-17; HOSEA 6:6 · MAY 30, 2021 · WILL BRANCH

SERMON OUTLINE

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." (Matthew 9:9)

Response to Jesus' Call

Matthew: Obedience

Tax collectors and sinners: Fellowship

The Pharisees: Contempt

John's disciples: Questions

The Lesson: Mercy not Sacrifice

Jesus' Call and Response

To the sick: Eat and be well

To the Pharisees: Go and Learn

To John's Disciples: Why fast? I'm here.

The Lesson: The old way doesn't work with the new.

Lessons to be Learned

The doctor is in: Are you sick?

The sacrifice has been made: Are you merciful?

The Bridegroom is gone: Are you mourning?

The old is gone: Are you new?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did Jesus call you to be His disciple? What was your response?
2. Why do you think the Pharisees questioned Jesus' disciples rather than Him?
3. The Pharisees question who Jesus keeps company with. What do you think their expectation of someone like Jesus was?
4. Slowly read Matthew 9:10-13 out loud. Why is it so easy to do what scripture says but not understand what it means?
5. If a person does what God says but misses what God means, are they being obedient? Why or why not?
6. From the mouth of God: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Reflect and share what you think this means.
7. The letter of the law was sacrifice. The intent of the law was mercy. What areas of life have you traded the intent of the law for the letter of the law?
8. John's disciples questioned Jesus about his disciples fasting habits. Do you think John sent them? Why or why not?
9. What would you say is the purpose of fasting?
10. Taking it a little deeper: Jesus, speaking about his death, says in Matthew 9:15 that "The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast." Why would this bring about fasting?